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PROPOSITIONS

EXTRACTED

From the REASONS for the Foundation and Promotion of a

Philadelphian Society:

Which were Read at the First Meeting of the same in *West-morland*-House, *London*.

Offered to the Consideration of All *Christians*.

And now Publish'd for the Preventing, or Rectifying of Mistakes.

2 COR. vi. 8.

As Deceivers, yet True.

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THE REASONS, *whence these Propositions are Extracted, may be found in the* Theosophical Transactions *by the* Philadelphian Society, *consisting of Memoirs, Conferences, Letters, Dissertations, Inquiries,* &c. *For the Advancement of* Piety, *and* Divine Philosophy. *Number III. For the Months of* May *and* June. pag. 195.

PROPOSITIONS extracted from the *REASONS* for the Foundation and Promotion of a *Philadelphian Society*: Which were read at the First Meeting of the same in *Westmorland*-House, *London*.

Offered to the Consideration of All Christians.

TO all the Faithful in Christ Jesus, where-ever Dispersed or Hidden, Grace be unto you: and Peace, Love, and Truth from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus. Whom we thank that, for the Glory of his Name, we have been thought by him worthy to suffer Reproach: and to bear a Testimony for him before this Generation, concerning the Blessed Hope of his Appearance, to prepare unto himself a Peculiar People, through his Spirit, which may be made like to his glorious Image, in full Sanctification, according to his Will. Who hath designed to fulfil his Work in you Throughout, that ye may not fall short of the most Excelleut Prize of the First Resurrection: and to revive amidst you the Apostolical Frame of his Church, and amidst as many as shall not put it far from them. This is that which has occasion'd Satan, who is always the Accuser of the Brethren, to rage mightily: and to raise

many False and Malicious Reports, that so the Truth might not be seen in the Mist. Wherefore we have been obliged to Publish these following Propositions, not so much for the Vindication of our selves, as of the Honour of God, and of the Truth of the Holy Scriptures.

I. The Church, or Bride of Christ, is to be made conformable to Christ throughout, *Rom.* 8, 29—12. 2. *Phil.* 3. 10.—3. 21. 1 *John* 3. 1, 2, 3.

II. This Conformity is the Adornment of the Lamb's Bride, who is now call'd to make her self Ready, *Isa.* 61. 10, 11. *Rev.* 21. 2.

III. This Preparation and Adornation cannot be any otherwise, but by the Holy Spirit of God, *John* 4. 24. *Rom.* 8. 11. *Gal.* 4. 6. *Isa.* 44. 3. *Joel* 2. 28. *Zach.* 4. 6.

IV. This Spirit is One: and thence the Church must be also but One. Herein consists the true Undivided Unity, and Perfect Uniformity, *Cant.* 6. 9. *Eph.* 4. 3, 4. 1 *Cor.* 6. 17. *Ephes.* 4. 13. *Phil.* 1. 27. —2. 2.

V. This Spirit is Holy: and thence the Church must be also Holy. Herein consists the Virgin Sanctity of all the Members of this Church, that is to be Redeemed out of the Earth, *Cant.* 4. 1, 7. *Rom.* 11. 16. *Ephes.* 1. 4.—5. 2, 7. *Col.* 1. 22. 1 *Pet.* 2. 5. *Rev.* 14. 4.—20. 6.

VI. This Spirit is Catholick: and thence the Church must be also Catholick; according to the most strict sense of the Word, in an universal Latitude of Love, without any Narrowness, Partiality, or Particularity of Spirit, *Gen.* 1. 2.—6. 3. *Joel* 2. 28. *John* 4. 21.—25. *Luke* 10, 30.—38. *Acts* 10, 11.—16. 1 *Cor.* 2. 10.

VIII

VII. This One, Holy, and Catholick Church is not barely Aſſiſted by an Irradiation from the Spirit of Chriſt, but is Actually and Vitally Informed by it, as the Body is by the Soul, *Rev.* 2.7.---11.11.---21,6.---22, 14. *Rom.* 8.6, 10. 2*Cor.* 3,6.---4. 10, 11.---5.4. *Eph.* 4. 18. *Gal.* 2. 20. *Col.* 3. 3, 4. *Heb.* 7. 16.

VIII. This Vital Operation, and Information being at preſent but in a very languid and faint Degree, there muſt be a Reſuſcitation and Reſurrection of the ſame, in order to the Glorious Kingdom of Chriſt, *Luk.* 18. 8. *Rev.* 20. 5, 6. *Acts* 15. 16, 17. *Ezek.* 37. 1---15. *Rev.* 11. 1---12.

IX. The Reſuſcitation of this Spirit is to be Waited for, 1 *Cor.* 12. 31. *Iſa.* 40.31.---30. 18.--49, 23. *Rom.* 2, 3. *Mark* 13. 33. *Rev.* 3. 3.--16, 15. *Eph.* 6. 18. compared with verſ. 13.

X. It is to be Waited for not only Seperately, but alſo Jointly, *Acts* 1. 14.--2. 1, 46.

XI. Such a Waiting is in obedience to our dear Lord and Maſter's Command, *John* 14. 16. *Mat.* 25. 13. *Mark* 13. 37. *Mat.* 18. 20. [This is alſo Confirm'd from the Practice of Chriſt and his Apoſtles: and that too, while they did not Recede from the Publick Temple-Worſhip.]

XII. It muſt be with theſe Qualifications; 1. Humility. 2. Reſignation. 3. Perſeverance. (1.) *Ja.* 4. 10. *Rev.* 3. 17, 18. (2.) *Rom.* 8. 27. *Col.* 1. 9. (3.) *Mat.* 10. 22—24. *Heb.* 6. 14. *Rev.* 2. 26.

XIII. It muſt be for theſe ends, (1ſt) Power from on High. (2dly) Wiſdom from Above. (3dly) Divine Learning and Theoſophy. (1) *Luke* 24. 49. 1 *Cor.* 5. 4. 2 *Tim.* 1. 7. (2) *Luke* 21. 15. *Col.* 2. 3. ---4. 5. 1 *Cor.* 12. 8. (3) *Epheſ.* 3. 4. *Phil.* 3. 8. 2 *Pet.* 3. 18.

XIV.

XIV. It is lawful to Wait upon God for Power from on High, or the Return of the Miraculous Deeds, by which his Kingdom, that has been hitherto withheld, may come to be witneſſed and proclaimed, *Luke* 24. 49.

XV. It is lawful to Wait and Pray for the Spirit of Wiſdom and Revelation, deſcending from the Throne of God, *Ja.* 1. 5. *Col.* 1. 9.-3. 16.

XVI. This is neceſſarily required in order to a right Government in all Spiritual Affairs, *Acts* 6. 3. 2 *Tim.* 3. 15. *Iſa.* 28 26, to the end.

XVII. It is lawful to Wait and Pray for Divine Learning, and to prefer it above that which is Human, *Phil.* 1. 9. *Heb.* 2. 14. *Iſa.* 28. 9.

XVIII. This Secret Learning vaſtly exceeds the Wit and Induſtry of the moſt ſagacious Inquirers, *Job* 28. 7. 1 *Cor.* 2. 11. *Pſal.* 25. 12.

XIX. It ſhall be given of the Lord to all the Members of this Church, *Jer.* 31. 34. *Heb.* 8. 11. *Iſa.* 4, 5. *Epheſ.* 4. 13.

XX. God is ſtirring up ſome Perſons in ſeveral Countries, to Wait in Faith and Prayer for theſe Ends, and with theſe Qualifications, till ſuch a Pure Church may ariſe.

[*Germany*, *Holland*, *Switzerland*, *France*, *Scotland* and *England* are Witneſſes to the Truth of this Propoſition.]

XXI. To which a Proſpect of the Preſent State of *Chriſtendom* has very much conduced, *Mat.* 24. *Mark* 13. *Luke* 17. *John* 15. 16, 17. *Dan.* 7. 8. and moſt of the Prophets.

XXII. The many Diviſions and Sects of Chriſtianity, all pretending to be the True Church, can not be otherwiſe cured but by the Effuſion of the Spirit,

Lam.

Lam. 2. 13. *Jeremiah* 30. 17.---33. 6. *Ezekiel* 11. 19. *Zeph.* 3. 9.

XXIII. The Insufficiency of all other Means and Methods have been hitherto experimentally Prov'd.

1. Of Human Learning.
2. Of Policy.
3. Of Power.

Particular Proofs hereof are frequently extant in History, both Ecclesiastical and Civil.

XXV. Neither of which seperately, or all conjunctly, is able to heal the Divisions, supply the Imperfections, or remove the Corruptions of any one Body of Christians. As, 1. In the Church of *Rome*, 2. In the Lutheran Church. 3. In the Calvinistick Reformation. 4. The Church of *England*.

XXVI. The Consideration of the Insufficiency of all Human Means, with a deep Sense that *Charity* is waxed cold, and that *Faith* is hardly to be found, must needs be a good Motive to excite us to seek out and wait upon those Means, which are Sufficient; and especially to endeavour to keep warm the Former, and to strengthen the Latter, which is ready to dye, *Gal.* 1. 16. *Zech.* 2. 13.--4. 6. *Dan.* 2. 34, 45.

XXVII. These Means are not Confin'd to a Party, but are extended to All; even as far as the Holy Catholick Spirit reacheth, which passeth and goeth through all things: And by the Effusion of this Spirit, All shall be taught of God, *Isa.* 54. 13. *John* 6. 45.

XXVIII. The Oneness, the Holiness, and the Catholickness or Universality of this Spirit, will not suffer us to Appropriate it to Any, and therefore not to

our

our own Society, both With reſpect to Ordinary and Extraordinary Operations of the ſame, *Gal.* 3. 26, 27, 28. *Col.* 3. 11. *Rom.* 10. 12. 1 *Cor.* 12. 13.

XXIX. The Deſign of our Aſſembling is not to * Divide, but to Unite; not to ſet up for a New Religion, or Church, but to keep Warm the Spirit of Love towards thoſe of all Religions and Churches, and to endeavour after the only Method of Reconciling them into a perfect and laſting Unity, by the Power of the Holy Ghoſt, *Iſa.* 58. 12.

* In Purſuance of this Propoſition, it has been our Cuſtom to adviſe Perſons, when Interrogated, to Keep ſtill in the Bond of Peace in the Viſible Unity of the Church: And even our Aſſemblies have been very far from being Grounded on *Sectarian* Principles, as we are able to Demonſtrate.

XXX. Catholick Love, and Apoſtolical Faith, are the two Grand Pillars of our Society: and the main Deſigns, which we labour, Watch and Pray for, both ſeperately by our ſelves, and jointly in our Aſſemblies, 1 *Tim.* 1. 14. 2 *Tim.* 1. 13. *Eph.* 6. 23. *Gal.* 5. 6. 1 *Theſ.* 5. 8.

XXXI. The Primary Object of the Apoſtolical Faith, is the Revelation of the Kingdom of God within the Soul, *Luk.* 17. 21. 1 *Cor.* 4. 20. *Col.* 1. 13.

XXXII. This Internal Revelation of it is by Chriſt the Soveraign Head of the Church, 1 *Cor.* 12. 5, 12, 27, 28. *Heb.* 1. 2.

XXXIII. Which as it is diligently to be waited upon, ſo is it to be held faſt, ſo far as it ſhall be received; a Loſs herein or Relapſe, being extreamly dangerous, 2 *Tim.* 2. 12. 14. *Heb.* 3. 6.--4. 14.--10. 23. *Rev.* 2. 4, 5, 11, 13, 25.--3. 2, 11.

XXXIV.

XXXIV. Such a Revelation of the Kingdom of God in the Soul, will conſtitute a Virgin Church, repreſentative of its Head in, 1. in Chriſt-like Holineſs, 2. Truth. 3. Power. (1) *Rev.* 3. 7. *Lev.* 11. 44. *Joel* 3. 17. *Obad.* ver. 17. 1 *Pet.* 2. 3. *Rev.* 20 6. (2) *Phil.* 4. 8. 1 *John* 5 20. 3 *Joh.* ver. 3. (3) *Acts* 8. 10. 1 *Cor.* 1. 24. 2 *Theſſ.* 1. 17.

XXXV. The Members of this Church are to be Anointed with Chriſt, and Conſecrated, 1. into the Prieſtly Order; 2. into the Prophetical; 3. into the Royal and Davidical. (1) 1 *Pet.* 2. 9. *Rev.* 1. 6. 5. 10.--20, 6. (2) 1 *Cor.* 14. 31. *Rev.* 11. 10.---18. 20. (3) 1 *Cor.* 4. 8. *Rev.* 5. 10.---20. 6. *Zach.* 12. 8.

XXXVI. The Model thereof we do preſs after as Attainable, and do not therefore reſt in what we have attained, *Phil.* 3. 12, 13, 14.

XXXVII. The Perfection of this Model muſt be Gradual, and the Beginnings therefore of it conſiſtent with a State of Weakneſs and Imperfection, *Heb.* 6. 1, 2. *Acts* 20. 32. *Jude* ver. 20.

XXXVIII. The Perſonal Appearance of Chriſt from Heaven is not to be, till after there be ſuch a *Philadelphian Church* on Earth to receive him, *Rev.* 3. 11. compared with 22. 7, 17.

XXXIX. Our Deſign is Apoſtolical; abating only from what was of a Temporary Conſtitution, or fitted to ſuch a Particular Church, *Acts* 1. 26.--4, 34, 35. --15. 13, to 30. 1 *Cor.* 7. 25.

XL. The Will of God muſt be done in Earth, as in Heaven, by the Inſpiration of his Spirit, *Matth.* 6. 10. *Heb.* 10. 7.

XLI. The Kingdom of God muſt come on Earth, as

it is in Heaven, by Virtue of the ſame Inſpirati *Dan.* 2. 44.--7, 27.

XLII. We receive the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Teſtament as the Foundation of our Hope and Faith, 2 *Tim.* 3. 16. 2 *Pet.* 1, 19.

XL*III.* There are ſome Promiſes and Propheſies in them, which have not had yet their Full Completion, *Rev.* 17. 17. *Luk.* 22. 16.

XL*IV.* The Civil Government is an Ordinance of God, as he is Supream Governour of the World, and is accordingly to be ſubmitted to, *Rom.* 13. 1. 1 *Tim.* 2. 2.

There was written *An Eſſay* of *Revelation* in the Year 1695. by a Member of Our Society, for the Reſolving of this Queſtion, *Whether Revelation, or the Immediate Communication of Divine Knowledge, be Now Attainable?* In which the *Poſſibility*, *Expediency*, and *Neceſſity* of *Revelation*, both Private and Publick, in this Preſent, and Approaching, Period of the Church is at large Handled. Which proceeds upon theſe *Poſtulata*, viz. *I.* That where-ever one thing is United with another, there muſt be ſome *Likeneſs* betwixt 'em which is the Cauſe of this Union. *II.* That by ſo much the more any thing has of Likeneſs to another, it may be the more firmly United to it. *Et e contra*. *III.* That where-ever two Things are ſo *Unlike*, that they cant be of themſelves United together, they muſt be United by ſomething in which they both Agree. *IV.* That the Works of God are Always in Juſt Proportion. *V.* That the Scriptures have

have been Delivered down to us for the Reveal'd Will of God. *VI.* That a Thing may arrive to that State, for which it was Created, and Deſign'd by God. *VII.* That Happineſs is Within. This Treatiſe is very large; as taking in great Part of the Scriptures. Whence the Publication of it has been hitherto Defer'd. But it is now deſign'd to be Shortly put into the Preſs, if the Bookſeller ſhall be encourag'd to undertake it.

Philadelphian Conſtitutions, Auguſt 23. 1697. Which were Read at Two Meetings of the *Philadelphian Society* in *Weſtmorland*-Houſe, *London*, will be ſhortly alſo Publiſh'd.

Theoſophical Tranſactions by the Philadelphian Society, *&c.* Number IV. For the Month of *July*, 1697. are Now in the Preſs. And the Reſt of the Months (having been hitherto greatly Retarded) are deſign'd to follow with all Expedition.

FINIS.